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17 February 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Agency ELINT Training Program

25X1 The ELINT Training Subcommittee met at 1000 on the morning of 17 February. A [ ] from OSI, whom I had not met earlier, was present along with the usual Committee members. [ ], secretary of the Committee, hopes to present the rewritten version of the ELINT Training Program to the ELINT Advisory Committee for their approval this afternoon (17 February). If the ELINT Advisory Committee approves the memorandum it is then intended to obtain the signatures of the Director of Training and the three Deputy Directors as concurring in the program prior to its submission to General Cabell for final approval in principle.

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Document No. 821  
NO CHANGE in Class. ☐  
☐ DECLASSIFIED  
Class. CHANGED TO: TS S (C)  
DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77  
Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Agency ELINT Training Program

1. This memorandum recommends the establishment of an Agency ELINT Training Program in support of CIA ELINT activities. The Agency ELINT Advisory Committee has studied this proposal and submits the recommendations in paragraph 6 for your approval.

2. On 29 May 1954 the Director approved the first Agency ELINT Program. Since that time Agency ELINT activities have grown in scope and number and have made a major contribution to national intelligence. Since ELINT is a relative newcomer to the intelligence community, there were, in the beginning, no standard operating procedures, and it was necessary for the Agency to develop an ELINT capability to meet assigned responsibilities in this new field. This effort has been successful. However, the rapid strides being made in science and technology are resulting in an ever increasing variety and complexity of electromagnetic radiations with which ELINT deals. As a result, the intercept, analysis, and evaluation of these radiations is becoming more and more difficult; increasingly intricate and costly equipment is required and operational techniques must be continually refined. This situation places a growing responsibility on personnel associated with all phases of the ELINT effort. It is clear that the quality and quantity of the ultimate intelligence product is directly related to the capability of those producing it -- and this capability is, in turn, largely

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dependent on adequate training. Since the recruitment of trained ELINT personnel is nearly impossible and since the military Services' ELINT interests and philosophy are quite different than the Agency's, it has been necessary for the Agency to train its own people making use of some applicable training courses given by NSA and the Services. Agency ELINT training has more or less paralleled the development of ELINT in CIA i.e. an evolution by chronological circumstances utilizing individual component capabilities rather than a detailed overall plan. Experience has shown that Agency ELINT training, although agreed to be important, on the whole has not had the priority or support needed to accomplish more than sporadic, hasty, on-the-job training.

3. The recommendations in paragraph 6 result from a detailed study of the Agency's total ELINT training requirements, an appraisal of what Agency facilities now exist to satisfy these requirements and an estimate of what additional support is needed to carry out the agreed upon training program. This is not a proposal to embark on a new, grandiose program since much of the necessary equipment, space, students and instructors are already on hand.

4. To illustrate the scope of the planned ELINT training program the following table of the number of people to be trained per component per year is presented. The amount of time spent in training will vary from one hour to full time. Details of this training appear in Tab A.

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5. Attached as Tab A is a statement of "CIA ELINT Training Requirements" listing the courses and briefings presently needed to prepare Agency personnel for assignment to Agency ELINT activities. Tab A also indicates what facilities are now available to support many of these requirements. Tab B summarizes what additional facilities are needed and is the basis for the recommendations in paragraph 6.

6. The CIA ELINT Advisory Committee has studied the ELINT Training situation and submits the following recommendations for your approval.

a/. The Office of Training be directed to manage the overall Agency Training Program. OTR to coordinate the instruction between the using offices and training establishments, with funds, instructor personnel, technical guidance, support and equipment provided by the components concerned.

b/. A group of 25 slots be authorized as a development complement for ELINT training. Of this number, 30 presently exist in OC leaving a total of 13 new slots to be made available. These to be allocated as follows:

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c/. Funds in the amount of  be provided to supplement

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funds already budgeted by each component for ELINT equipment and external training costs. See attachments to Tab B for details on these figures. The equipment figures are first year costs and will be greatly reduced in subsequent years. The additional funds to be allocated as follows:

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7. The ELINT Advisory Committee stands ready to answer any questions you have on this proposal.

HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.  
Chairman, ELINT Advisory Committee

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Approved For Release 2005/11/17 : CIA-RDP62-00634A000200010042-1

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Approved For Release 2005/11/17 : CIA-RDP62-00634A000200010042-1